



Juntos transformemos
Yucatán
GOBIERNO ESTATAL 2018 - 2024

SEDUMA
SECRETARÍA DE DESARROLLO
URBANO Y MEDIO AMBIENTE



Oficina: **Dirección de Planeación y Cambio Climático**
Oficio No.: **VI-1244-19**
Asunto: **Solicitud de apoyo para el California Tropical Forest Standard**
Fecha: **Mérida, Yucatán. August 29, 2019**

California Air and Resources Board,
State Capital Suite 1173
Sacramento California, 95814, USA.
Re: Support for California Tropical Forest Standard

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,
We reiterate here our support for the Tropical Forest Standard and its endorsement by the California Air Resources Board. California has been a global leader in addressing climate change and this standard is an urgently needed signal that can increase the impact of California's policy beyond its borders. As a tropical forest state, we are fully aware of the importance that the sustainable management of our forests has, not only in the global fight to promote sustainability, but for the protection of our ecological and cultural capital. It is because of these reasons that we are working hand in hand with other jurisdictions on innovative and sustainable ways to halt the deforestation of our forests, with the state of California being a key actor in these efforts.

The need to address climate change is critical, and halting tropical forest deforestation is indispensable, as well as one of the most significant steps the world can take to be on a safer path. The conservation of tropical forests has a global reach, affecting weather events such as droughts and wildfires that are increasingly affecting California and many other global jurisdictions. California's standard will be a robust example of how to set incentives for large-scale forest programs that address deforestation with environmental and social integrity. The standard is based on sound science; it will provide a needed model for emerging markets around the world for how forest protection efforts could be recognized by emerging markets, sustainable supply chain efforts and other climate protection programs.

For years, Yucatan and California have been learning from each other and collaborating through the Governors Climate and Forest Taskforce and the California -led Under2 Coalition (through our Memorandum of Understanding). Over the past several years, several members of our Secretariat had the opportunity to travel to California and take part in hearings and workshops to ensure the respect and integration of appropriate safeguards and international tools. Some of us have also engaged with the Environmental Justice community to better understand their viewpoints and concerns.



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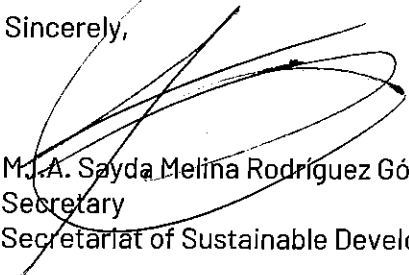
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Yucatan has laid the groundwork for an effective conservation of its forest carbon stocks, having created a jurisdictional and local action framework that will enable us to transition towards a sustainable and low-emissions rural development. This framework is the REDD+ Strategy of the State of Yucatan, as well as the Sustainable Investment Plan for the Puuc Region, which are both based on a total respect of the social, environmental and economic rights of our indigenous Mayan communities. We are also working closely with the Federal Government of Mexico on having a solid Monitoring, Report and Verification System that will allow to effectively articulate the local efforts on deforestation reduction with Mexico's emission reduction targets. Similarly, we also collaborate with the National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) in the construction of an environmental and social safeguards framework included in the REDD+ Strategy at the national level.

Therefore, we consider that the Tropical Forest Standard could be a catalyzing mechanism of all of these actions intended to conserve our forests. The TFS would be the guide to consider on the type of requisites to expect from compliance markets, voluntary markets, and sustainable supply chains to recognize our sector based forest protection efforts.

We look forward to a continued collaboration and joint subnational leadership to address climate change, halt tropical deforestation and promote sustainable livelihoods. We urge you to take the next step and endorse the Tropical Forest Standard.

Sincerely,


M.J.A. Sayda Melina Rodríguez Gómez
Secretary
Secretariat of Sustainable Development.

C.c.p. Maestra Diana Pérez Jaumá. Subdirectora de Planeación para la Sustentabilidad. SDS
Archivo


RIVM/100*

"2019, Año de la Lengua Maya en el Estado de Yucatán"